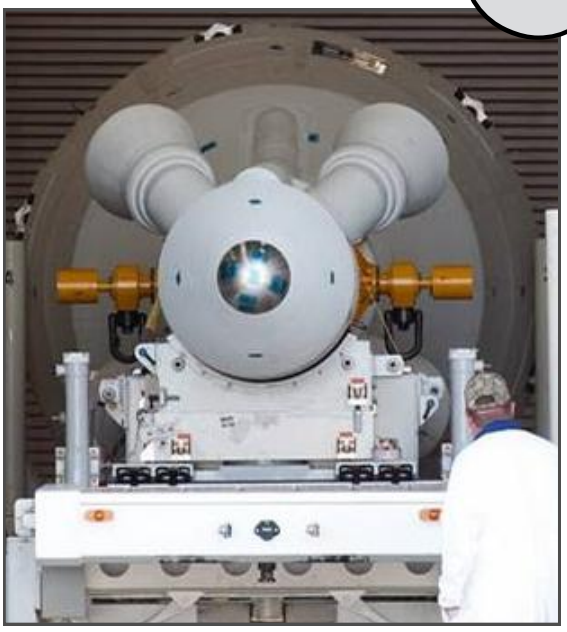
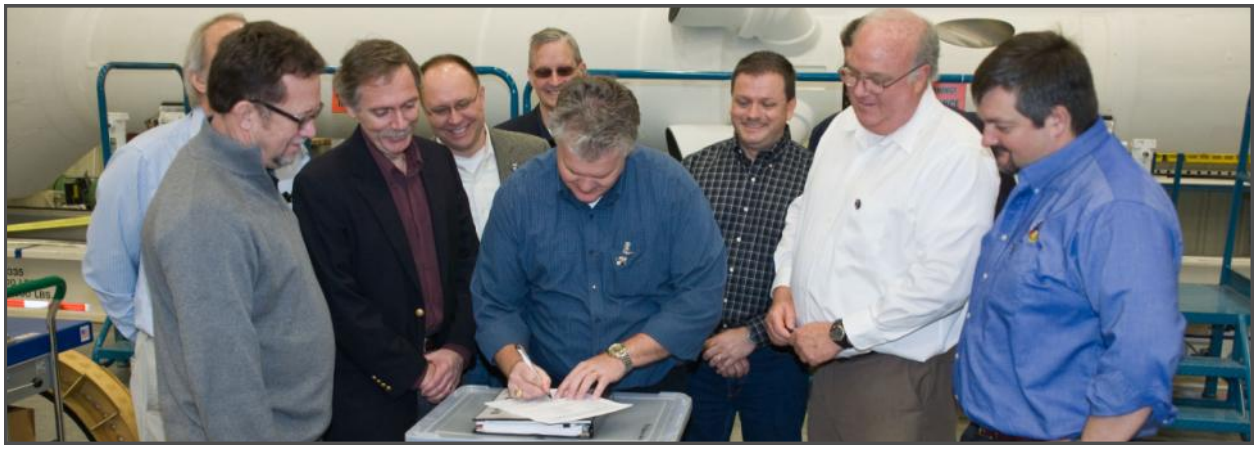
ORION
CREW EXPLORATION VEHICLE

WEEKLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

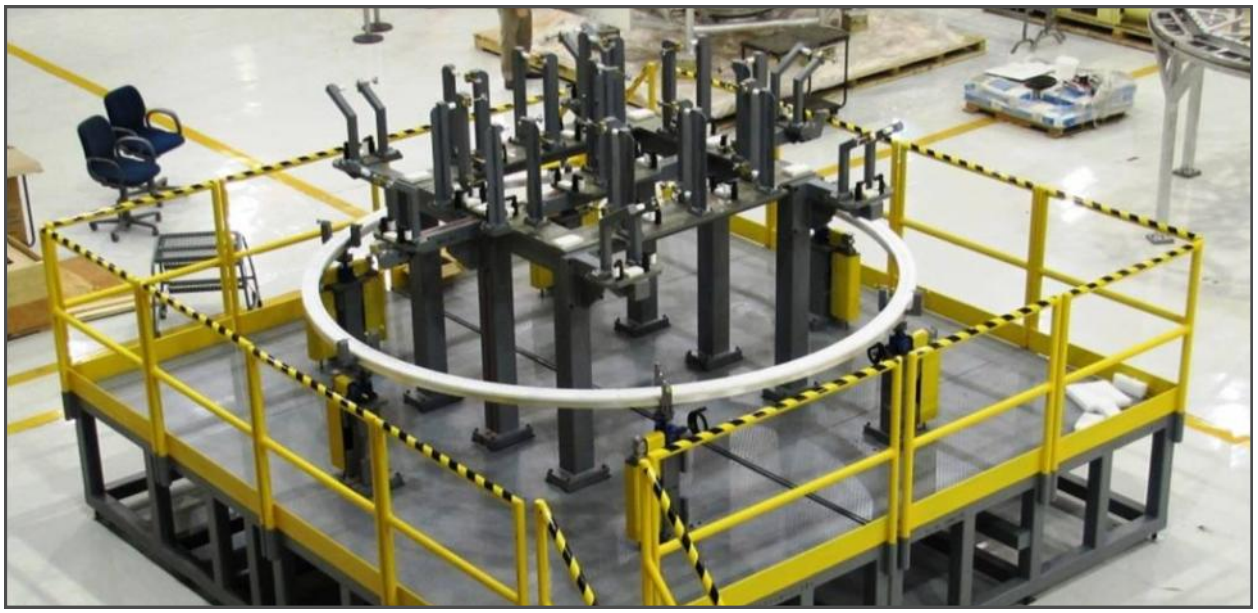
the countdown is on for Pad Abort 1

04.02.10

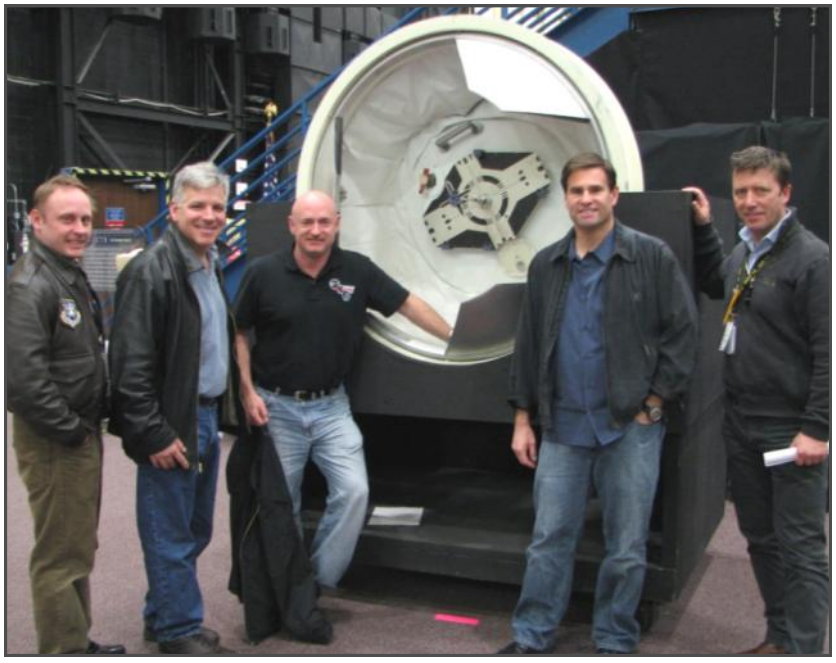




The Launch Abort System (LAS) (top left, right) is ready to stack atop the crew module on the pad for the upcoming Pad Abort 1 test at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in New Mexico. Recent high winds of over 70 miles per hour have prevented installation, but the team should get a window of opportunity in the next few days, keeping them on track for a May 6 launch. Other milestones were achieved recently at WSMR with the government acceptance of the Launch Abort System (shown above) and the installation of all of the lightning towers (top middle) on the pad.



Ground Test Article (GTA) work continues at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana. The team is ready to begin the installation of the backbone assembly to the Crew Module (CM) Barrel/Aft Assembly using the CM backbone assembly fixture shown above.



The Sensor Test for Orion RelNav Risk Mitigation (STORRM) team recently met with the crew of STS-134 (shown left) to train on how to use the STORRM equipment to collect data during their upcoming mission. The training Involved the sun simulator being placed at differing angles around the docking ring providing glint, glare and shadows. Then the centerline camera was translated toward the docking ring to simulate an approach. The STORRM reflective elements were not distracting to the crew.